*Dying to Drink: Confronting Binge Drinking,*

by Henry Wechsler and Bernice Wuethrich. New York: Rodale Books, 2002. 320 pp.

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The concern of alcohol and other drugs on college campuses is certainly not a new issue of this century. Lucey (2006) writes, “Since the Colonial Era, colleges and universities in America have had to address the issue of students using psychoactive substances, especially alcohol” (p. 22). Despite alcohol being a longstanding bond among college students, the issue was not given significant research attention until about the 1950s. Two student deaths in 1949 and the near death of another student the same year may have triggered a nationwide interest in the subject of substance abuse among college students (Lucey, 2006, p. 22).

Straus and Bacon (1953), in their work titled *Drinking in College*, led the way in the study of student drinking behaviors and laid the groundwork for additional works. *Drinking in College* reported on perhaps the first significant study on college alcohol use, which was performed by Yale University. Straus and Bacon outlined the nation’s newfound interest surrounding college drinking and paved the way for future works on college alcohol use, including *Dying to Drink,* which will be reviewed in this work.

In *Dying to Drink: Confronting Binge Drinking on College Campuses*, the most recent work of large significance on this subject, Henry Wechsler and Bernice Wuethrich paint a broad picture of this subject for its readers and outline what seems to be adding to the issue of binge drinking. Wechsler, a well known scholar in this field who allied with Wuethrich in this work, has written numerous works aligned with the topic of alcohol and underage consumption. In *Dying to Drink*, the bulk of their work involves the interpretation of one College Alcohol Study (CAS) distributed in 2001 by the Harvard School of Public Health. Wechsler and Wuethrich credit binge drinking in college to the following: bar specials, advertising aimed at the underage, Greek life, and the lack of action taken by college officials to curb underage drinking (p. xiv). Further, the authors proclaim college alcohol use to be more problematic than perceived by the public, although their views seem rather extreme in this field.